

JOHN Maskell, veteran of more than 700 games in the Wycombe Wanderers goal made a vital double save midway through the second half that eventually earned the side a point in their Berger Isthmian League encounter at Boreham Wood on Tuesday night.

Maskell's spectacular and vital stop came in the 72nd minute of a highly entertaining match packed with plenty of goal-mouth action. This exciting moment was typical of the match.

Boreham Wood 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1 Report by MICHAEL KNOX

Wood were leading 1-0 at the time and threatening to gain revenge for their 1-0 defeat at Loakes Park earlier in the season. They seemed certain to increase that lead when the former Chesham forward Kevin Mulkern broke clear.

His shot was perfectly struck but somehow Maskell managed to get a hand to it. However he could not prevent it rebounding dangerously in front of goal.

It seemed a certain second goal for Jeff Batten as the ball bounced towards him invitingly. But miraculously Maskell, moving with the agility of a teenager, dived and grabbed hold of the ball at the last split second.

EQUALISER

Another goal then and Wycombe would have been sunk without trace. But Wanderers, knowing they were now still in the hunt, continued to press and clinched the equaliser seven minutes from time.

Mick Holifield took Blues seventh corner, from the left, Steve Hardwick won a vital back-header by the near post and the ball travelled dangerously across the face of the goal before Dylan Evans prodded the ball home.

This was a highly creditable result for Wycombe, who were without the services of their classy full-back Paul Birdseye. He damaged a knee in Saturday's 2-0 victory over Leatherhead, and the injury had not recovered. He was replaced by Garry Fowles, who improved in confidence as the match progressed.

This is the latest in a long line of injuries for Wanderers, who are having an unfortunate season. Once they have everybody fit, they should be a formidable side.

Wood, encouraged by their 5-0 win against Tilbury on Saturday, started confidently and snatched a deserved lead after just three minutes.

Nick O'Donoghue broke down the left and was given time to send in a high cross which eluded the whole of the Wycombe defence. One man who did not miss it however was Batten who squeezed through two defenders to put the ball home at the far post.

The Wood front three of Batten, Steve Ragan and O'Donoghue looked mighty sharp in the opening stages with Batten the star. Indeed it was this former Southend reserve, who created an opening for Mulkern after 10 minutes. But he headed wide.

Wanderers gradually began to adjust to the pace and Evans drove the ball wide from a good position after Steve Long had intercepted Dennis Tyler's back pass.

Watching this match was like concentrating on a marathon rally on the centre court at Wimbledon. Such was the end to end action that my neck was a little stiff at the end of the match.

ENTERTAINING

It would be too monotonous to mention all the attacks on goal for I could not do justice to them all. Suffice to say it was certainly the most entertaining match of the season.

So I will restrict my further comments to the two closest non-scoring chances of the night — one for each side. Wood's came in the 43rd minute when O'Donoghue turned brilliantly in the penalty area and fired a low shot which Maskell, who was to perform miracles later on, saved at the second attempt.

Then 16 minutes into the second half Holifield struck a brilliant left foot shot against the cross-bar from 20 yards.

It looked then as though it just was not going to be Wycombe's night. But Maskell's save and then Evans' goal conspired to earn them a draw. Neither side deserved to lose.

BOREHAM WOOD: S. Waller; D. Tyler (sub. M. Skingle, 72 mins); D. Lawrence, P. Carretta, J. Sneddon, I. Whitehead, M. Bevens, K. Mulkern, S. Ragan, J. Batten, N. O'Donoghue.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, G. Fowles, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, J. Priestley, M. Holifield, D. Evans, S. Long, D. Harris. Sub. L. Reid (not used).

Referee: E. N. Day (London).
Half-time: 1-0. **Scorers:** Boreham Wood — Batten (3 mins); Wycombe — Evans (83).

Mackenzie goes west

GRAHAM Mackenzie, the Wycombe Wanderers midfielder player, has joined Southern League side Cheltenham Town.

'Jock' as he was known to the Blues fans, has been unable to gain a regular place in the team this season and as he is now living and working in Gloucester, he has decided to take the logical step and play down there.

When he joined Wycombe in 1973/74, Mackenzie was regarded as a highly promising midfielder player. However, he has never quite lived up to that promise and could not get into the team when Andy Williams took over.

Mackenzie was popular with the fans, not only because he was a local product, but also because of his explosive shot which

produced some spectacular goals.

Manager Mr Williams' main problem for tomorrow's (Saturday) visit to third placed Barking concerns the state of the Mayesbrook Park pitch.

A Barking club official confirmed that the pitch was something of a dustbowl. Indeed a recent youth match had to be abandoned, because the touch-lines blew away!

Anything can happen on this pitch as was shown by Tuesday night's result in which Barking, the league's top scorers, beat Hayes 5-3.

Wanderers should have Paul Birdseye back into the side after

a knee injury, and there is also a chance that both Howard Kennedy and Stewart Atkins might play after prolonged absences.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon	10	8	0	2	23	10	24
Dulwich	10	6	3	1	13	4	21
Barking	10	8	2	2	27	17	20
Leatherhead	11	6	2	3	18	8	20
Wycombe	12	6	2	4	19	10	20
Enfield	12	6	2	4	16	12	20
Walthamstow	11	6	1	4	18	12	19
Hitchin	11	6	1	4	19	16	19
Dagenham	11	6	1	4	15	12	19
Hendon	12	5	4	3	16	18	19
Boreham Wd	11	6	2	3	18	12	18
Woking	11	4	5	2	21	17	17
Slough	10	5	2	3	9	8	17
Hayes	11	3	5	3	14	18	14
Tooting	12	4	2	6	14	18	14
Staines	11	3	2	6	12	20	11
Sutton	11	2	2	7	10	17	8
Oxford	9	2	2	5	11	21	8
Kingston	10	1	3	6	7	18	6
Leytonstone	10	1	2	7	7	14	5
Carshalton	10	0	5	5	9	18	5
Tilbury	10	1	1	8	9	27	4